

INVITATION FOR BID

MAGIC RFX#: 3140002437

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOOD PRODUCTS FOR SELF-OPERATED FOOD SERVICES

AMENDMENT 1 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Which MDOC locations are included in the Invitation for Bid?

All locations are listed in Appendix C of the Invitation for Bid.

2. The bid states 4,022 cases of freeze dried coffee. How is that packaged? Is it bulk or individual packs?

It is bulk cases (30 lbs.).

3. The bid is requiring two (2) years certified financial statement with notes. Will the financial statements we provide be kept private and out of the public record?

MDOC is a public agency of the State of Mississippi and is subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* If a public records request is made for any information provided to MDOC pursuant to the agreement and designated by the Contractor in writing as trade secrets or other proprietary confidential information, MDOC shall follow the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 before disclosing such information. The MDOC shall not be liable to the Contractor for disclosure of information required by court order or required by law.

4. Performance Bond in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 is required to the MDOC with the bid. Is there any way this requirement can be reconsidered so the performance bond isn't required with the bid submission but only if a contract is established?

In lieu of the performance bond, MDOC will accept a letter from the supplier's insurance carrier stating that supplier's company has the capacity to provide the performance bond upon notification of award of contract and that contract will not be awarded unless performance bond has been provided.

5. Potato Slices are going to be in short supply again in 2021. We prefer to recognize and prepare for these sorts of things upfront as we will not be able to guarantee supply of this product.
 - a. What item(s) would MDOC approve to substitute for the Dehydrated Sliced Potatoes to help ensure consistency and cost effectiveness?

MDOC understands that during the COVID-19 global pandemic there are going to be times when supplies are short and at that time MDOC will make adjustments to the menu with other items such as rice, pasta, potato granules, etc. MDOC will make substitutions but only when the product is no longer available. This will not be a common practice, if you cannot guarantee supply of product it should be noted on your bid.

6. What is the protocol for alerting the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) about product shortages that are classified as an “Act of God” situation?

“Act of God” is defined as an extraordinary interruption by a natural cause (such as a flood or earthquake) of the usual course of events that experience, prescience, or care cannot reasonably foresee or prevent.

When and if there is a shortage due to “Act of God” this must be disclosed immediately with the Director of Food Services via e-mail or telephone. The Director will then verify the supply shortages, if product can be located, the stated product is to be delivered.

7. Margarine reddies are being discontinued by all active manufacturers due to a government mandate concerning food safety.
 - a. Can we offer margarine cups, 5gm or a bulk product to the MDOC in place of the margarine reddies, 14gm?

14gm margarine cups will be allowed if margarine reddies are being discontinued.

- b. Many of our accounts require that the margarine be Kosher certified. Does MDOC desire a Kosher or Kosher Pareve margarine?

YES.

8. Kosher or Halal items are not listed in this bid. Does MDOC have their own Kosher and Halal program that we need to take into consideration?

At this time, MDOC does not have a need for Kosher or Halal meals. In the past when they are needed, MDOC purchases shelf stable meals separately at MDOC’s cost. This should not be used in calculation of cost per inmate per day.

9. Do any of the items in Appendix D have to be Kosher or Kosher Pareve certified?

Margarine

10. On Appendix D after the spices are listed, there is a note about “MDOC will not accept any food products from Mexico or China”

- a. Does this note only pertain to the spices or to the entire MDOC list of items?

Spices can be from Mexico or China. Samples will be required on all spices in accordance with the "Quality Assurance" section of the Invitation for Bid. Any items, other than spices, will not be accepted from Mexico or China.

11. Sliced lunch meats 0.5oz are not going to be available to the correctional market in 2021.

Any items listed as 0.5oz can be substituted with the 2/10# logs.

a. Can we bid 2/10# logs to be sliced in the units by the MDOC staff?

NO.

12. Spec sheets: Will we need to provide a binder with all specs and nutritionals with the actual bid response or afterward?

Yes, this will be needed by November 16th.

13. Cheese in this bid doesn't say imitation, are we to quote all real cheese for Cheddar and American?

MDOC is asking for real cheese.

14. The bid lists 800# totes. Does this relate to farm products? If not, is there a centralized warehouse where these are to be delivered?

The 800 lb. totes are bulk. All three (3) central kitchens at MDOC institutions have the capability to receive these totes. The 30lb will be used at the Community Work Centers.

15. PC Cranberry juice is typically a mixture of cranberry with water or fruit juices. Are you requiring a percentage of Cranberry juice for the PC size drinks?

A 15% cranberry juice option is typically used because of the heavy tart nature of 100% cranberry, 15% is sufficient.

16. Can you provide the number or percentage of inmates statewide requiring therapeutic diets? Can we get a diet list?

Currently MDOC has around 700 offenders on therapeutic diets. The diets that are in place are ADA 1800, ADA 2200, ADA 2600 ADA 2800, ADA 3000 and all consist of a snack bag which includes either a meat sandwich or peanut butter sandwich, fresh fruit or fruit juice. Other food categories: PEM II, CARDIO, LIQUID DIET, CLEAR LIQUID, PREGNANCY, RENAL, NO CONCENTRATED SWEETS, FOOD ALLERGEN. Due to HIPAA laws, MDOC cannot provide a specific diet list.

17. Can you provide the number or percentage of inmates statewide requiring religious diets? What type of religious diets are being served?

Around 20% of the MDOC population are on religious diets. These diets follow MDOC regular menu with adjustments made for each religion. These diets consist of Muslim, Hinduism, Rastafarian, and at times Kosher and House of Yahweh

18. Can MDOC provide the standard diet manual?

The current food vendor provides MDOC with their diet manual. This is proprietary information and cannot be shared. MDOC will be following The Mississippi Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Diet Manual.

19. Our surety company will not issue a bond without a signed contract. We are told this is standard procedure nationwide. Can MDOC confirm that the performance bond can be sent after there is a signed contract in place? We have also been informed that countersigned bonds are no longer done, can you confirm that this will not be required?

In lieu of the performance bond, MDOC accepts a letter from the supplier's insurance carrier stating that supplier's company has the capacity to provide the performance bond upon notification of award of contract and that contract will not be awarded unless performance bond has been provided.

20. What is the historical annual quantity and associated total value for each of the farm produce products used?

FY 2017 \$393,486.96, FY 2018 \$468,000, FY 2019 \$144,000, FY 2020 \$89,577, FY 2021 AS OF 10-23 2020 \$82464.00. Greens, broccoli, cabbage, purple hull peas and turnip bottoms are in the field to be harvested this winter. Green beans, corn, squash, okra, peas and lima beans will be planted in the spring. The value as of 10-23-2020 does not include any of these crops.

MPAE WILL BE FARMING MORE ACREAGE IN THE FUTURE

21. Can we bid on Coffee items only? Or is this for all items only?

No, as stated in the Invitation for Bid, MDOC is looking for one comprehensive vendor to provide all food products.

This Amendment 1 must be signed by the company's authorized representative signing the bid for MAGIC RFX#: 3140002437 and returned with the bid on or before the Invitation for Bid closing date and time, which is November 2, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. CST.

Company

Authorized Representative

Date